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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1943.

Barnsley:
R. E. Griffiths Ltd., Printers, Hanson Street.

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Annual Report, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Worsborough Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health Conditions of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1943.

On instructions from the Ministry of Health the Report has again been confined to essential matters and Statistical Returns only, and, on grounds of National Security, no figures or tables of Local Populations are to be disclosed.

Your obedient Servant,

JEAN H. RITCHIE, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

According to the Registrar General's Figures—

Total Live Births in the District: 289 (156 males, 133 females).

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 22·88.

Still Births: 7. Still Birth Rate: ·554.

Live and Still Birth Rate for the year: 23·43.

Deaths at all ages: 125 (72 males, 53 females).

Death Rate tor the year: 9·89.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes: Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year: 18 (10 males, 8 females).

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births: 62·28.

Deaths from Cancer	22
,, Measles	1
,, Whooping Cough	2
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil

England and Wales.

	1941	1942	1943
Death Rate	12·9	11·6	12·1
Birth Rate	14·2	15·8	16·5
Infantile Mortality Rate...	59·0	49·0	49·1

Worsborough District.

	1941	1942	1943
Death Rate	9·48	10·69	9·89
Birth Rate	15·49	19·48	22·88
Infantile Mortality Rate	70·70	56·91	62·28

Causes of Death in 1943.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Nil
Scarlet Fever	Nil
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria	Nil
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	7
Tuberculosis (other forms)	2
Syphilitic Diseases	Nil
Influenza	5
Measles	1
Cancer	22
Diabetes	Nil
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	8
Heart Disease	25
Other Circulatory Diseases	4
Bronchitis	5
Pneumonia	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	2
Ulcers of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2
Diarrhœa	Nil
Appendicitis	Nil
Other Digestive Diseases	2
Nephritis	5
Premature Birth	5
Congenital (Malformatory)	4
Suicide	Nil
Accident	2
Other Violent Causes	2
All Other Causes	11
TOTAL ...	125

The greatest number falls under the heading of Heart Disease. This number is less than it has been for the past few years: it is the same as in 1937.

Cancer is responsible for a larger number than of late years. Curiously enough, the figure for 1937 was similar.

Tuberculosis appears to be on the increase. This is general throughout the country.

Infantile Mortality.

Of 18 Infant deaths under 1 year, I find that 9 of the mothers had no Ante-Natal care and attended no Clinic: 6 attended regularly at Clinic: 2 went once: and one had regular attention from her own doctor. 50% of the deaths were from Broncho-Pneumonia. Of the remaining 9, 4 died of Prematurity, 2 from Pemphigus, and 3 from Congenital Defects.

Infectious Diseases.

There was an outbreak of Measles during the year, 242 cases being notified, and 1 case proved fatal.

No serious outbreaks of any other notifiable Infectious Diseases occurred during the year.

There were 42 cases of Scarlet Fever;
32 ,, ,, Whooping Cough;
7 ,, ,, Diphtheria;
29 ,, ,, Pneumonia;
3 ,, ,, Erysipelas;
2 ,, ,, Puerperal Pyrexia.

All the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were removed to Hospital.

Scabies.

The District has been relatively free from Scabies infestation, and those cases reported have been promptly dealt with so far as it was possible to do so.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

249 children under 5 were immunised during 1943; 265 between 5 and 15 years were immunised during the year. We consider that 60% of the child population under 5 were immunised at December 31st, and 88% over 5.

Child Welfare Centres.

The Centres are unaltered.

Air Raid Precautions.

Nothing is altered in the Services apart from the depletion of personnel by calling-up.

Verminous Houses,

No noteworthy changes have been made in the methods of treatment employed in cases of infestation by bed bugs. Zaldecide has been successfully used where a liquid insecticide was required, and sulphur compounds when a gas was more suitable. In badly infestated premises both are used, and there have been few cases of re-infestation after treatment.

General Provisions for the Health Services.

Ambulance Facilities.

A. (1) Fever. Arrangements with the Wath, Swinton and District Joint Hospital Board to remove all cases to Hospital.

(2) Small Pox. Do. do.

B. For Accidents, etc., and Non-Infectious cases.

Motor Ambulances provided by the Council.

Particulars supplied by the Surveyor :—

No. of patients using the Ambulance during the year ... ... ~~1,186~~ 1,495

No. of miles travelled ... ... ~~7,825~~ 8,713

Nursing in the Home.

Nature of arrangements in the District:—

(*a*) General.—Private Association known as the "Cooper and Worsborough District Nursing Association" (partly endowed) provides two qualified Nurses for the "necessitous poor" for treatment in their own homes for the whole District.

During the year the Nurses made 4,889 visits to patients' homes, and 193 new cases were treated. Of these visits 1873 were for Public Assistance and Old Age Pensioners, and 131 visits were paid to Notifiable cases.

(*b*) Infectious Diseases.—None.

Midwives.—Controlled by the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.—Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the County Council.

Public Shelters.

The Public Shelters in the District have been inspected periodically and found generally satisfactory.

Salvage Report for the Year ended 31st March, 1944.

Material Collected	Amount Sold						In Stock	
	T	C	Q	£	s.	d.	T	C
Waste Paper ...	35	15	1	161	9	1	1	0
Scrap Iron... ...	7	9	0	16	7	8	1	0
Scrap Tins ...	22	2	0	18	19	2		
Glass Cullet ...	10	11	0	7	18	3	3	0
Rags	3	9	2	44	2	6		4
Bones	2	5	2	10	16	2		1
Bottles and Jars ...	1	19	2	6	4	10		12
Non-Ferrous Metals		9	2	8	13	4		2
Rubber	1	10	0	3	15	0		1
Totals ...	85	11	1	278	6	0	6	0

The collection of light Scrap Iron and Tins ceased at the end of 1943, on instructions from the Ministry of Supplies.

Two Salvage Drives (one for Books and one for general Salvage) have been carried out during the year, with good results. Altogether over 11,000 books were collected, and a considerable number were despatched to the Forces, and others were sent to replace books at blitzed libraries.

The members of the various youth organisations, salvage stewards, and the older school children all gave valuable assistance.

Collection of Waste Food.

The collection of Waste Food is proceeding on the same lines as in previous years, viz. :—The weekly collection of waste food by pig keepers from bins loaned to them by the Council at at cost of 1½d. per bin per week. Fifty-five bins are in use.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

There have been no complaints with regard to the main Water Supply for the District.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensions or alterations were made during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

Only 2 privy-middens have been converted into water-closets during the year.

No. of Privies converted into Water Closets during 1943	No. of Waste Water Closets converted into Water Closets in 1943	No. of Additional Closets provided for Old Property	No. of Water Closets constructed for New Property	No. of Closets in District at end of year 1943		
				W.C.'s	Waste W.C.'s	Privies
2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,963	143	147

Scavenging.

Number of Ashpits emptied	2,711
Number of Dust-Bins emptied	152,942
Number of Loads removed	3,494
Deposited on Land	365
Deposited on Tips	3,129

Total cost of Scavenging for the year ... £2,779 (approx.).

Nuisances.

Total number of Inspections made in 1943—215.

Cause of Nuisance	No. of Notices Served		No. of Notices complied with
	Informal and Verbal	Statutory	
Choked and Defective Drains ...	4	5	9
Defective Manhole Covers	3		3
Flooded Cellar	1		1
Defective Eaves, Gutters, and Fall Pipes		1	1
Cesspool Overflowing	2		2
Nuisance from Rats	3		3
Dilapidated Privy Middens	1	3	4
Defective W.C.'s	3	5	8
Nuisance from Smoky Flue	2	3	5
Dirty Premises	4	1	5
Verminous Premises	3	3	6
Leaky Roof	7	2	9
Worn-out Dust Bins		11	11
Nuisance from keeping Fowls and Pigs		2	2
Accumulation of Rubbish		1	1
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	2	1	3
Nuisance from Burst Water Pipes ...	2		2
Overcrowding	4	1	1
Totals ...	41	39	76

Housing Acts.

No. of Houses inspected ... 139

No. found defective and made satisfactory ... 14
,, found unfit for habitation 2
,, made fit after undertaking being given ... 1

Overcrowding.

Although only a few cases of overcrowding have been reported during the year this is no indication that there is no extensive overcrowding in the District.

Certainly most of the overcrowding has been caused since the war, not by any influx of new residents or by evacuees from other districts, but has been simply caused by the normal growth of the District; no houses having been built during the past four years.

There are no available vacant houses in the District, and when demobilisation commences there will be a far greater need for houses to meet the increased demand than at the present time.

Inspection of Factories and Meat Shops.

		No. of Inspections	CONDITIONS
No. of Bakehouses— On Register ...	3	30	Clean and satisfactory.
No. of Offensive Trades — (Fish Frying only) On Register ...	14	56	Clean and satisfactory.
No. of Slaughterhouses— On Register ...	10	120	One Slaughterhouse only now in use as a meat distributing depôt. Conditions are quite satisfactory.
No. of Factories — On Register ...	17	68	With the exception of The Worsborough and District Coking Co. and Longley's Timber Yard, none of these premises are extensive. Conditions are satisfactory. 4 Additional W.C.'s were provided, after notice, at The Worsborough and District Coking Co. Works.

Meat Inspection (1943).

There are ten Licensed Slaughterhouses in the District. One slaughterhouse at Worsborough Dale is used for the distribution of the Meat Allocation for the District, and one at Worsborough Bridge is earmarked for use in connection with the treatment of food in case of Contamination by Poison Gas.

The remaining slaughterhouses have been used only occasionally for the slaughter of Cottagers' pigs, under licenses issued by the Ministry of Food.

The whole of the Meat Allocation for Worsborough is received from the Government Regional Slaughterhouse in Barnsley, and is distributed to the Retail Butchers of the District from one slaughterhouse situated in Worsborough Dale.

The amounts of English Meat received during the year were as follows :—

Sides of Beef	544
Sheep	1,084
Pigs	30
Calves	102

During the year 114 Cottagers' pigs (Slaughtered under License granted by the Ministry of Food) for the rearers' own use were inspected.

The following Foodstuffs were condemned:—

A quantity of biscuits and chocolate at the Food Office which had been damaged by mice.

142 tins of condensed milk at the Ward Green Cooking Centre, on account of being in a badly bulged and damaged condition.

1 carcase of a goat belonging to a Cottager—Emaciation.

1 carcase of a pig belonging to a Cottager—Peritonitis.

51 lbs. of rolled bacon—Decomposed and grubby.

19½ lbs. of butter—Rancidity.

Generally, the Cottager's pigs, with the exception of a few plucks, were found free from disease; and the carcases well nourished.

Milk Supply,

Milk and Dairies Orders.

Summary of the Registers:—

Number of Milk Producers	22
Number of Milk Retailers	24
Number of Retailers (not cowkeepers) ...	9
Number of Wholesalers	7

1 Producer—licensed for the production of Certified Tuberculin Tested Milk.

1 Vendor—licensed to retail Pasteurised Milk.

5 Vendors—licensed to retail Accredited Milk.

There are 41 cowsheds in the District, and approximately 288 cows are kept.

Samples of milk taken regularly by the County Council for bacteriological examination, and samples for sediment tests are taken by the Health Deparment.

2 samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination from 1 Milk Producer, on account of a complaint having been received, proved unsatisfactory. A warning was sent to the Producer and a further sample taken afterwards proved satisfactory.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases during the year 1943.

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0—1				
1—5				
5—15			1	2
15—25	2	1		
25—35	3			1
35—45				
45—55				
55—65	1			
65 and upwards	1			
Totals	7	1	1	3

Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the Year 1943.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified or otherwise ascertained.	Cases removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	42	42
Diphtheria (including Mem. Group) ...	7	7
Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal) ...	29	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	
Erysipelas	3	
Respiratory Tuberculosis	8	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	
Measles	242	
Whooping Cough	32	